



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Maryland's Social Services Agency



MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release:

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For more information:

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DHR, CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, KENT, QUEEN ANNE'S AND TALBOT DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES RECOGNIZE FOSTER PARENTS

BALTIMORE –May is National Foster Parent Appreciation Month. The Department of Human Resources and the five of the lower shore departments of social services are honoring foster parents during the month of May in recognition of the positive contributions they continue to make in the lives of children.

“Maryland has a little over 3,000 foster parents that help to care for the more than 9,000 children who can not safely live with their parents,” said Brenda Donald, Secretary of the Department of Human Resources. “Foster parents are the linchpin that holds things together for these children during what is perhaps the most traumatic time of their lives. The service they provide is invaluable, so we use National Foster Parent Appreciation Month to show our gratitude to them.”

Party in the Park, held in conjunction with the annual Multi-Cultural Festival, is a regional foster parent recruitment and retention event for the whole family. Sponsored by Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties, it is a fun-filled day with games, music, face-painting, radio spots, and information tables.

WHO:

Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties Departments of Social Services

WHAT:

Picnic in the Park

WHEN:

Saturday, May 1, 2009, 10 a.m.

WHERE:

Blair Mansion

1 7711 Eastern Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20912

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state's social service provider. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to: provide foster care, adoption and protective services to children; collect and distribute child support payments; and provide temporary cash, food stamps and medical assistance to families. It also funds programs for homeless persons, refugees, migrant workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered or assaulted. Last year, DHR served 638,000 people in need. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is Maryland's fourth largest state agency.